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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,992	04/05/2001	Nurhan Pinar Tutuncu	2280.2660	3697

5514 7590 07/03/2002

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EXAMINER

GOLLAMUDI, SHARMINA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1616	

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/825,992	TUTUNCU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sharmila S. Gollamudi	1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The request for the Extension of Time and Amendment A filed on March 29, 2002 is acknowledged. Claims 1-21 are included in the prosecution of this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/59427 in combination with Hanke (6231900) are maintained.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that neither WO nor Hanks teach the separation of a salivation agent or a comfort ingredient, and contrary to the examiner's assertion, there is not disclosure in either reference of an oral comfort ingredient.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. WO clearly teaches the acidulants (salivating agents) of the instant invention. Although WO does not refer to the compounds as "oral comfort agent", it teaches the same triglycerides as in instant invention on page 9, line 14. WO also teaches that acidulants degrade acid sensitive additives and segregation of additives in dentifrice products on page 2. Although, the method of avoiding acid degradation of the additives in WO is different, the reference is suggestive of the knowledge in the art of segregating the components in oral products.

Applicant argues that “to the contrary, the flavor and the acidulant interact when they are consumed, which teaches away from providing them in separate regions, which is the combination suggested by the examiner.” The applicant further argues that WO disclosure describes the use of acidulant flavor enhancers in combination with the flavors. The rationale behind these arguments is not readily apparent to the examiner since instant claim 6 recites a mixture of acidulants and flavors. Will these components not interact, as argued by the applicant in regards to WO?

Applicant argues that Hanke does not disclose separate regions with a salivating and oral comfort ingredient respectively. While it is correct that Hanke does not teach the separation of the oral comfort component from the salivating component, Hanke teaches the concept of using different regions for two components, cooling component and the flavor component, which provides a product having soothing properties and improved taste. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the concept of molding a confectionary product in different compartments as taught by WO. The examiner also points out that the motivation to combine need not be the same as the applicant’s.

Rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/59427 in combination with Hanke (6231900) in further view of Klacik et al (6099880) is maintained.

Response to Arguments

Applicant only argues that Klacik et al do not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference and does not teach the combination of the salivation agent and the oral comfort agent.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive since this reference is combined for its teaching of molds with separate regions and the applicant has not provided specific arguments.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

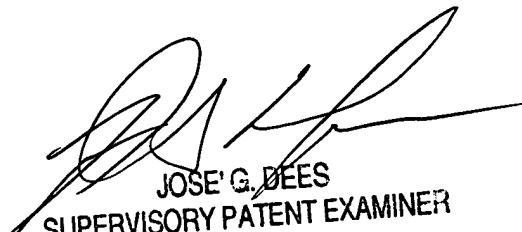
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharmila S. Gollamudi whose telephone number is 703-305-2147. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4628. The fax phone numbers for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 709-308-0196.

SSG
~~gjg~~
June 25, 2002


JOSE G. DEES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
16 16